TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 23, 2001 LB 273

processing plants in place so they've had some troubles up Most of the hemp grown in the world is grown in China and is used for paper production, but I can tell you that since 1992 a number of European countries, including France, the Netherlands, England, Switzerland, Spain, and most recently Germany, have passed legislation allowing for the commercial cultivation of low THC hemp. In fact, the European Union has recently been promoting hemp cultivation by providing subsidies to grow hemp. Hemp is already cultivated on at least 24,000 acres in France, Spain, and Great Britain. I... I would try to answer any questions, but I would want to make one thing clear. might be the last person in this Legislature who would vote for the legalization of marijuana. There, as far as I can tell from what we've looked at, there is no correlation between industrial hemp and marijuana as far as something you can use for a drug to get high. We have read studies where hemp could actually be called anti-marijuana. Some people have said, well, if you have an industrial hemp field you can plant marijuana in the middle of that field and hide it. The trouble is, the hemp will cross-pollinate with the marijuana and make the marijuana useless for the drug people. So I hope I've kind of laid out an outline of what we're trying to do here. It's something I'm rather excited about. My son is not too excited about it because he doesn't like to put up hay and I think one of the things you have to do with this is probably windrow it and bale it like you would hay, so he... I'm not sure he would be excited about me growing it on the farm out there, but it's a With that, I will conclude my opening. possibility. have any questions, I will be glad to try and answer them. Keep in mind if we pass this bill we will not be growing hemp, but we will be joining a number of states with legislation that would permit the growing of industrial hemp if you have a license and it would be permitted by the Drug Enforcement Agency :--Administration) of the United States, and the Drug if (sic--Administration) Enforcement Agency (sic--Administration) of the United States does not permit the growing of hemp in the United States at this time, although they have allowed for some research to take place, and I know some of that has taken place in the state of Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the